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Title: Strike by students of Indian Veterinary Research Institute demanding creation of Indian Council of Veterinary Research.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the students of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute are on strike from the 17th October demanding the creation of an independent council of veterinary research. At present, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) is under the Indian Council of Agriculture Research. You will kindly appreciate that animal science and plant science are totally different branches of science. But proper nourishment and patronage required for the IVRI is not being given because the ICAR has 8 divisions and the percentage of allocation of funds to the IVRI is only 8 to 10 per cent of the total allocation of ICAR.

Madam, animal science is very important for the economy of our country because it is sustainable even in adverse climatic conditions like drought and flood specially at a time when global warming is coming. Secondly, the contribution of the animal husbandry sector to the national GDP is 4.2 per cent and it also constitutes 26 per cent of the total GDP of agriculture. Therefore, I demand that the Government should create a separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research. The Standing Committee on Agriculture has, on several occasions, recommended creation of a separate ICVR and an assurance was also given in this august House during 1996-97 for the same. But so far, the Government has not acted upon it by giving various pleas.

Now the students are agitating for a long time for the creation of a separate ICVR. There are more than 38 veterinary colleges, 7 veterinary universities and 2 national veterinary research institutes in this country. They have to be properly nourished and patronized by the Government. To achieve this objective, creation of a separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research is very essential. I would also like to submit that on the 15th of this month the students are going to have an agitation at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. This is an academic issue and students should not be on the path of agitation for a long time as it would affect their education. So, I would request the Government to bring them to the negotiating table before 15th of this month so as to resolve the issue.